



AN ANALYSIS OF THE POSSIBILITIES OF CHRISTIANS MIGRATING TO ATHEISM

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ABSTRACT

Christianity is type of living more than a religion, reflecting the principles and teachings of Jesus Christ, whom they consider as a savior and believed to be sent from Almighty God to save his people from sins to everlasting life. In general presumption the followers of any kind of religion needs to hold a set of principles in which they believe their life would be enlightened. When a child born in a family that follows a specific religion will be trained to abide by the religious conditions, most in common many people continues to follow those even after growing old enough to understand the world of reality, due to the beneficial factors that exist in it. The beneficial factors are different from physical world to spiritual world; very few among them tend to have their own understanding and the ability to examine the world of reality and don't compromise on the issues that conveyed to them about the religion, which seems to be in different dimensions for them. In this article I footnote some of my understandings that consider the possibilities of migration from religious beliefs to non religious beliefs specifying the Christian attributes.

KEYWORDS: Christians, Religion, Christianity.

Introduction

When a child born in a traditional Christian family needs to undergo many religious rituals like baptism, dedication, christening, and many, means as the consent given by the parents that they will take up the responsibilities in bringing up the child within Christian values. As they promise before the congregation most of the Christians with orthodox beliefs follows and maintain the promise in raising their children. They get lot of cooperation and support from the local church and the congregation as well, which further ensures their children will never go away from the line of control till they stand by on their own. Even after growing old enough, many of them continues to follow the religious beliefs and practices in which they have been trained for. The reason I found that they hold on to their religious beliefs even after attaining the state of maturity is due to the beneficial factors that found in it. When I say beneficial factors it is different from physical world to spiritual world. Most of them believe that religion offers the biggest support that required living their day to day life. Despite of all these factors, few of them tend to have their own understanding and reluctant to accept the beliefs of different dimensions. Here I traced some of the possibilities that allow a person to migrate from religious beliefs and non religious beliefs specially who was born under the circumstance of traditional Christian values.

Point for Discussion

1. Gaining of sound knowledge in Science.
2. Religious extremism.
3. Negative impact of local church and congregation.
4. Inclining to extreme philosophical thoughts and rational theories.

The Discord of Science with Religion

The theories of science always disagrees with religious beliefs, starting from the theories of Aristotle to Galileo who have supported the Copernicus theory which projects "the position of the Sun near the center of the Universe is motionless with Earth and the other planets rotating around it in circular paths modified by epicycles and at uniform speeds". The Catholic Church which believed in the doctrines of bible doesn't imply to accord with the Copernicus theory with the background reference of the below mentioned biblical passages.

1 Chronicles 16:30 - Tremble before him, all the earth! The world is firmly established; it cannot be moved.

Psalms 93:1 - The Lord reigns, he is robed in majesty; the Lord is robed in majesty and armed with strength; indeed, the world is established, firm and secure.

Psalms 96:10 - Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns." The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity.

Psalms 104:5 - He set the earth on its foundations; it can never be moved.

Ecclesiastes 1:5 - The sun rises and the sun sets and hurries back to where it rises.

Job 9:6 - He shakes the earth from its place and makes its pillars tremble.

All these verses in the Bible may project the doctrine of faith between man and God but still disagrees with the theories of science. Just by submitting his report stating that "earth has not a stationary body", the entire Catholic churches

revolted against Galileo and in the council of Trent he was charged under blasphemy, which initiated many scientist and the people with analytical abilities to revolt against the Christian faith. When Charles Darwin inducted the theory of Evolution means all the creatures in the world is related and had descended from a common ancestor, the birds and the bananas, the fishes and the flowers, presumes mainly the development of life from non-life creatures to living creatures. The theory further clarifies the evolution with proofs and evidence even to those, the orthodox Christians is reluctant to agree. According to the belief of Christians the earth and the universe is created by God through his words, which is extreme contrary to the theories of science.

The Impact of Religious Extremism

Christianity has got several denominations; the origin of Christianity was begun after the death of Jesus Christ, which was started by Apostles in the name of early churches. Many people were called upon to work for churches and in its activities in order to proclaim the gospel in a better manner. The early churches which were started by Apostles later named as Catholic Church, which was managed by group of clerical members and Pope being the head. Many regulations were updated in the Churches according to time and cultural factor. A group of dissatisfied member of congregation with the regulations of Catholic Churches have disassociated themselves and started their own denomination called Protestants led by Martin Luther in 16th century. The congregational members who were dissatisfied in the Protestant community were split and named them as Puritans on later stage; likewise many denominations were formed due to their annoyance and discontent with the church regulation. In the recent census it is counted that more than 15000 (fifteen thousand) denominations are there in Christianity. Every denomination has got their own style and method of proclaiming the gospel, it's up to the individual to follow and accept the specific kind of denomination, most in cases many prefers to follow the denomination followed by their forefathers and some of them those who couldn't tolerate the religious extremism prefers to migrate, when it's about migration its varies into three types.

Type (1) is the victim of religious extremism of a specified denomination prefers to change their denomination not the religion.

- Type (2) is also the victim of religious extremism prefers to shift their beliefs from Christianity to some other religion.
- Type (3) is also the victim of religious extremism prefers to shift their beliefs from religion to non-religion beliefs called as Atheism.
- It is mandatory to discuss about religious extremism, in order to find out the validity of all these type of people.

List of few religious extremism

1. The law of anathema means ex-communication from the Church, this law is structured in many denomination even in major denominations like Catholic and Protestant, which acts for different conditions and it's up to the Supremes' decision to act on this, it can applied on any member of the Churches for their deeds and activities concerning even their personal life.
2. If a member of Church is sporadic in visiting Church and taking part in regular mass and Eucharist will be treated disdain among the congregation.

3. Paying of tithes is up to the individual, it is to be followed as prescribed by the Church orders, if not, those will not be considered as a regular member of the Church and cannot claim any rights in the Church activities like Baptism, Christening, Confirmation, Dedication, and even in Christian rituals from birth to death.
4. Some of denominations in Christianity like Pentecostal and Brethren describe the Attire and Kinesics even for the Church visitors, if the visitor doesn't emulate their style of approaching the doctrine of divinity will be disdained in everyone's presence.

The Impact of Local Church and congregation in negative manner

Church is more than a building with four walls and a roof, it's not just about the building it's about the people those who were a part of it and those who runs it. The activities of the church involves in many forms, carrying the main intentions to call upon the people for togetherness in order to exercise their faith. In the beginning of early churches initiated by St Paul and St Peter after the death of Jesus, they have created various positions in the churches like elders, Deacons, Missionaries, Evangelist, and Laymen in order to manage promptly the different activities of the churches. Initially they all were good but in later days the responsibilities shared by the congregation members became their family rights and they started considering those as their privilege, many reasons were behind it, one of the primary reason is it provides respect and honor for those who holds the position in the churches especially in the midst of the society they live in, apart from that many can claim secured living conditions for them and for their family members even the upcoming generations. When the point is about secured living conditions it includes all the basic necessities like food, cloth and shelter and even a big chance to enhance their treasure. Most of the well settled churches, offer these amenities to the person who holds various positions in the churches in order to embellish the ministry that was allotted on those. Certain things never remains unchanged, many people have seen it in different perspective as their main source of enhancements. This is how all the calamities were started, in order to retain their positions they have launched corruption and malfeasances, which has affected many innocent people's faith on the church and divinity. As a result of this the innocent victims by the corrupted congregation intended to take up understanding in negative manner some on the congregation alone and some on the act of divinity.

List of few contributions of congregation that Jolt the faith of believers

1. The system of congregation rule over the church management.
2. Incriminate of corruption in the church funds by the congregational members.
3. The system of giving priorities to the elders.
4. The system of allowing discrimination between rich and poor.
5. The subjects of classification based on casteism, communalism, gender bias and racism.
6. The act of domination through groupism in the church activities.
7. The forcing contributions of the members to the churches, those who are abided to the worldly affairs.
8. The missing of fellowship and faith among the members.

The Perceive of rational theories and philosophical Thoughts

Knowledge and wisdom is a bestowal of humans, the possession of these qualities are quite high in humans while comparing with other species, the power of human mind always tends to think beyond the limits of understanding, vision is another grant of humans which can sense the natural and supernatural sights. The term logical reasoning is believed to exist even in ancient period, which made platform for several freethinkers to origin.

"Come now, and let us reason together," says the Lord. - Isaiah 1:18, even though this verse invites the believers to reason together, the understanding of the context projects reasoning in different notion. "A simple man believes anything, but a prudent man gives thought to his steps". (Pr 14:15) says the same scripture which is against the blind faith of religion followers. Faith and rationalism cannot travel in the same boat since both are contradicted to each other, it doesn't mean that a freethinker is faith free because even the freethinkers have faith but not in the context of religion and its existence. The theories of rationalism and philosophical thoughts are the combined factor of the below points.

- **To Know:** be mindful of a fact through interpretation.
- **Fact:** not just understanding the given context, but indeed finding the fact behind the scenes and the scenario of context.
- **Knowledge:** it is limited from person to person, one can know only up to his level of knowing ability

- **To Reason:** which determines the answers with questions form by why, where, which, when, how and what.
- **Logical:** interpretation of the content in various dimensions with a sense of clarity and conditions.
- **Rational:** applying skeptical tend in the approach of learning, knowing and understanding using reasons as formula.

Very few people has got the tendency to deal the subject with rational thinking and to interpret in psychological manner, especially the researchers and the analyst show their interpretation in a wide manner, once the quality of skeptic arises in one person the format of comparison begins religion with science, in which science always stand high when it was interpreted through rational mode, whereas the religion is based on the faith mode. The statement of heaven and hell are quite contradicted to realistic theories, the main principle of the rationalist is to believe only in the proven theories not anything which was said on irrational format. Philosophical thought which guides people to dig deeper onto a statement, which delivers various meaning and different kinds of understanding to the one same statement. In another term philosophy is connected with the subjects of reality, existence, reasoning, minds ability to interpret towards a particular idea, which always make a man to think out of the box and refuses to accept the concepts of statements that covered under credence.

Conclusion

The another name that Atheists have given to themselves is 'Freethinker' means the liberty is provided to them to think in any dimensions and in any perspectives which wasn't granted to the believers of Christian religion, the basic principle of Christianity is to believe in the God without questioning his competencies and potentiality, it's very hard to find Muslim migrating to atheisms principles, we can say the ratio would be 100000:1, in Buddhism the ratio would be 500:1, in Hinduism the ratio would be 100:1, but in Christianity the ratio would be 1000:1, the ratio could have decreased more if the cessation of above discussed points are rectified.

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